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PARENT & INVENTOR MARK



**Last Modified By: Cary Bates      Last Modified On:**

Required fields are marked with the asterisk (\*) and must be filled in to complete the form

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10-10-68

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ 05/05/2006

## Main Idea

### \*Title of disclosure (in English)

Cell phone with real-time group member proximity alert.

### \*Idea of disclosure

1. Describe your invention, stating the problem solved (if appropriate), and indicating the advantages of using the invention.

This invention was discussed with Derek Martin as a feature of the GPS cell phone disclosure and we were instructed that this was a different invention and we should send it through the process. Since it will soon be mandated for 911 purposes that cell phones will have a GPS device in them our invention is to use the combination of this technology to notify members of a group when they are in similar locations. Previous inventions have included answering a particular number depending on GPS location, and leaving a message for anyone in a family or work group such that anyone in a particular area will be given the message. This invention deals with locating a group member.

Particularly in areas where new housing construction is going on, its a common site to see workers or subcontractors pulled over to the side of the road talking. The reason for this is that face to face conversations are often more productive and cheaper than calling one another on the cell phone and discussing the issue. Our invention utilizes the GPS device on the cell phone to notify the user when another member of their work group is in a similar location to them. This allows the two to be aware of this and get together if needed. It also, can tell them their helper is about to come onto the job site so they can prepare for him or her.

2. How does the invention solve the problem or achieve an advantage,(a description of "the invention", including figures inline as appropriate)?

With the previous invention the location of a particular cell phone had to be known in order to route calls to it or to route its calls to another number. This invention uses this information to know when phones are entering the same proximity, and sends a signal to each of them. This signal causes the phone not to ring, but to emit a simple beep and display the number and name of the person who is now in the same proximity.

Another feature that can be provided by this invention would be the ability to request real-time location of each member of the group. There are many uses for such a feature, so there would be lots of reason why a family or work group would pay additional charges to use it.

Additionally, besides beeping and letting you know of the proximity of a group member, the phone could also provide possible places to meet with each other. Take for instance you are in the twin cities driving West on I494. At the same time someone from your group is driving East bound on I494 and you are 20 miles apart. The phone detecting that someone is within range could also offer up a meeting place.

3. If the same advantage or problem has been identified by others (inside/outside IBM), how have those others solved it and does your solution differ and why is it better?

We have not seen this

4. If the invention is implemented in a product or prototype, include technical details, purpose, disclosure details to others and the date of that implementation.

No

**\*Critical Questions ( Questions 1 - 7 must be answered)**

**Question 1**

On what date was the invention workable? 02/10/2000 Please format the date as MM/DD/YYYY  
(Workable means i.e. when you know that your design will solve the problem)

Masked

